

IN THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims follows immediately hereinafter.

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in association with a cup for aiding a user in identifying that cup, said cup having an annular opening that is defined by an enlarged, annular peripheral rim having a rim thickness and having a rim curvature extending to surround ~~around~~ said annular opening, said apparatus comprising:

a body including an attachment portion that defines a rim receiving aperture configured for engaging at least a part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim in a way which supports the body on the cup and said attachment portion having an arcuate configuration to at least approximately conform with a portion of the annular opening having the rim curvature and said attachment portion defines an arcuate entrance opening leading into said rim receiving aperture having an entrance opening width that is less than the rim thickness of the enlarged, annular peripheral rim for capturing the engaged part of the enlarged, annular peripheral rim.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said attachment portion defines ~~at least one~~ the rim receiving aperture for slidably capturing ~~the~~ an engaged part of the enlarged, annular peripheral rim such that the body can move in sliding engagement around said rim.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 2 wherein said cup includes a sidewall extending to said rim, said sidewall including a sidewall thickness, wherein said enlarged, annular peripheral rim includes a rim thickness which is greater than the sidewall thickness, and wherein said attachment portion defines the rim receiving aperture having a width that accommodates the rim thickness and defines an the arcuate entrance opening leading into said rim receiving aperture having ~~an~~ the entrance opening width configured as less than the rim thickness but greater than the sidewall thickness ~~that is less than the rim thickness of the enlarged, annular peripheral rim.~~

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 3 1 wherein said attachment portion is further configured to resiliently deform upon passing the rim thickness through the entrance opening of the rim receiving aperture.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the arcuate configuration of said attachment portion is further configured to resiliently deform responsive to flexing of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 5 wherein said enlarged annular peripheral rim includes an inner periphery and an outer periphery and wherein said attachment portion is configured having a first portion at least adjacent to said inner periphery and a second portion adjacent to said outer periphery such that the first portion and the second portion are in a non-confronting relationship across said enlarged annual annular

peripheral rim.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein said first portion includes a spaced apart pair of tabs, each of which is formed to receive at least a portion of a cross-sectional shape of the enlarged annular peripheral rim and said second portion includes a protrusion that cooperates with the tabs to define said arcuate configuration.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein said cup includes a sidewall connected with said enlarged annular peripheral rim which sidewall includes an interior surface and an exterior surface ~~an inner sidewall and an outer sidewall~~, each of which is delimited by said enlarged annular peripheral rim, and wherein said protrusion is positioned at least approximately laterally equidistant from each of said tabs and projects toward said ~~outer~~ exterior surface ~~sidewall~~ from exterior thereto.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein said cup includes a sidewall extending to said rim, said sidewall including a sidewall thickness, wherein said enlarged, annular peripheral rim includes a rim thickness which is greater than the sidewall thickness, and wherein said attachment portion defines an entrance opening leading into said rim receiving aperture having an entrance opening width that is less than the rim thickness of the enlarged, annular peripheral rim and each tab includes a distal end and said protrusion is configured to cooperate with the distal end of each tab to define said entrance opening in a non-confronting relationship.

10. (original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein said attachment portion is configured for slidably engaging said enlarged, annular peripheral rim without a need for a continuous biasing force on said enlarged, annular peripheral rim.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said cup includes a sidewall having an inner surface and an outer surface ~~an inner sidewall and an outer sidewall~~, each of which is delimited by said enlarged annular peripheral rim and wherein said body further includes an identification portion that is connected with said attachment portion and is positioned proximate to said outer surface ~~sidewall~~ when the attachment portion engages the enlarged peripheral rim.

13. (original) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said attachment portion and said identification portion are integrally formed.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said identification portion is customizable to aid said user in identifying the cup and is outside of an interior volume that is defined by the cup.

16. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said body is formed of plastic.

17. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in association with a cup for aiding a user in identifying that cup, said cup having an enlarged, annular peripheral rim which defines an opening and which is connected to a sidewall of the cup, said apparatus comprising:

a body including an attachment portion configured for engaging at least a part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim without application of a continuous, resilient biasing force to said sidewall and said enlarged, annular peripheral rim in a way which supports the body on the cup.

18. (original) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said attachment portion is configured for slidably engaging said part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said ~~cup includes a sidewall connected with said enlarged, annular peripheral rim, which sidewall~~ includes an interior surface and an exterior surface and wherein said body further includes an identification portion that is connected with said attachment portion, said identification portion being configured such that said identification portion is disposed adjacent to said exterior surface of said sidewall when the attachment region is in engagement with said enlarged, annular peripheral rim.

20. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in association with a cup for aiding a user in identifying that cup, said cup having a sidewall connected with an enlarged, annular peripheral rim having a rim curvature extending to surround around said opening and define defining an opening, said apparatus comprising:

an attachment portion configured for engaging at least a part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim in a way which supports the apparatus on the cup having an arcuate configuration to at least approximately conform with the rim curvature, said attachment portion including

at least one tab configured to at least partially surround said engaged part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim,

at least one protrusion configured to cooperate with said tab such that said attachment portion is supported by engaged with said engaged part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim; and

an identification portion, connected with the attachment portion, such that the identification portion is positioned adjacent to the sidewall when the attachment portion is in engagement with the enlarged, annular peripheral rim and wherein said protrusion is in a non-confronting relationship with any other portion of the apparatus directly opposing the protrusion on an opposite side of said sidewall.

21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A method for use in association with a cup for aiding a user in identifying that cup, said cup having a sidewall connected with an enlarged, annular peripheral rim which surrounds and defines an opening, said method comprising:

attaching an apparatus to said cup, said apparatus including

an attachment portion configured for engaging at least a part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim in a way which supports the apparatus on the cup having an arcuate configuration to at least approximately conform with the rim curvature, said attachment portion including

at least one tab configured to at least partially surround said engaged part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim, and

at least one protrusion configured to cooperate with said tab such that said attachment portion is engaged with said engaged part of said enlarged, annular peripheral rim, and

an identification portion, connected with the attachment portion, such that the identification portion is positioned adjacent to the sidewall when the attachment portion is in engagement with the enlarged, annular peripheral rim and wherein said protrusion is in a non-confronting relationship with any other portion of the apparatus directly opposing the protrusion on an opposite side of said sidewall.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said annular opening includes a circumference and the arcuate configuration of said attachment portion is configured to conform to a portion of the circumference.

25. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said cup includes a sidewall connected with said enlarged annular peripheral rim which sidewall includes an interior surface and an exterior surface and wherein said attachment portion includes a spaced apart pair of tabs, each of which is curved to receive at least a portion of a cross-sectional shape of the enlarged annular peripheral rim and each of said tabs includes a free end that is positioned adjacent to said interior surface and said attachment portion further includes a protrusion that projects toward said exterior surface from a position exterior thereto in a non-confronting relationship with the free end of each of said tabs and which cooperates with the tabs to define said arcuate configuration.

26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said cup includes a sidewall connected with said enlarged annular peripheral rim which sidewall includes an interior surface and an exterior surface and wherein said attachment portion includes a spaced apart pair of tabs, each of which is curved to receive at least a portion of a cross-sectional shape of the enlarged annular peripheral rim and each of said tabs includes a free end that is positioned adjacent to said interior surface and in a non-confronting relationship directly through the sidewall with any other portion of the body.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said tab is in a non-confronting relationship with any

other portion of the apparatus directly opposing the protrusion on an opposite side of said sidewall.

28. (New) The method of claim 23 including configuring the apparatus such that said tab is in a non-confronting relationship with any other portion of the apparatus directly opposing the protrusion on an opposite side of said sidewall.